



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.0793 | FAX (517) 373.5607  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/george/)

For Immediate Release  
March 8, 2005

Contact: Sherry Sofia  
517-373-0793

## **Judicial election district elimination bill passes committee**

**LANSING** – Legislation to eliminate the judicial election districts in Kalamazoo County has once again passed the Senate Judiciary Committee, announced Sen. Tom George, R-Texas Twp.

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 193 was given by George; the Honorable Judge Paul Bridenstine, Chief Judge of the Kalamazoo District Court and the State Court Administrative Office.

“Eliminating the election district boundaries will correct the injustice whereby the citizens of Kalamazoo County have been denied the right to vote for their district court judges,” said George, sponsor of the bill.

To address concerns raised by the Governor’s office, George submitted letters to the committee from constituents and a former Kalamazoo court administrator in support of the legislation.

While the Kalamazoo County District Courts were consolidated in 1999, the three judicial election districts (City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage and Kalamazoo County) were not. SB 193 was introduced in response to concerns that since the recent consolidation of the Kalamazoo County district courts, a citizen may have a case presided over by a judge for whom they were unable to vote. Originally introduced as Senate Bill 1463 in the previous legislative session, that bill was passed by both chambers but was vetoed by the Governor.

SB 193 now goes before the full Senate for consideration.

###